

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 00179 091537Z

53

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AF-10 IO-14 CIAW-00 *ODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 EB-11 COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1142

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 0179

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AU

SUBJ: SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL FACT-FINDING MISSION TO
MIDDLE EAST

1. IN WAKE OF SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL (S.I.) LONDON-BASED
BUREAU ANNOUNCEMENT JANUARY 7 THAT CHANCELLOR KREISKY WILL
HEAD S.I. DELEGATION TO VISIT MIDDLE EAST, WE ASKED SOCIALIST
PARTY FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN KARL CZERNETZ FOR CLARIFICATION.

2. CZERNETZ TOLD US MIDDLE EAST TRIP IS IMPLEMENTATION OF
KREISKY'S PROPOSAL MADE AT S.I. BUREAU MEETING LAST NOVEMBER
TO INITIATE A DIALOGUE WITH ARAB COUNTRIES IN WAKE OF
LATEST ARAF-ISRAELI CONFLICT (VIENNA 9372). ROUND OF VISITS
WOULD HAVE DUAL PURPOSE: TO OBTAIN FIRSTHAND INFORMATION FROM
ARAB LEADERS CONCERNING ACHIEVEMENT OF JUST PEACE IN MIDDLE
EAST AND TO EXPLORE AREAS OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN
ARAB COUNTRIES AND WESTERN EUROPE.

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PAGE 02 VIENNA 00179 091537Z

3. IN ADDITION TO KREISKY, WHO WILL BE ONLY HEAD OF GOVERNMENT, DELEGATION WILL INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES FROM HOLLAND (CABINET LEVEL), UK (JAMES CALLAGHAN), FRG (HANDS-JURGEN WISCHNEWSKI), FRNACE (FRANCOIS MITTERAND), ITALY (ANTONIO CARIGLIA), SWEDEN (PALME DESIGNEE).

4. AUSTRIANS HAVE PROPOSED ONE 5-DAY JOURNEY LAST WEEK OF FEBRUARY AND ONE FIRST WEEK OF MARCH. COUNTRIES TO BE VISITED ARE EGYPT, ISRAEL, JORDAN, LEBANON, AND SYRIA. IN ADDITION TO GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES, GROUP WILL ALSO TALK TO PLO LEADERS. SECOND TRIP FORESEES VISITS TO TUNISIA, ALGERIA AND LIBYA. COMPOSITION OF GROUP AND ITINERARY WILL BE DECIDED AT PREPARATORY MEETING OF DELEGATION, PROBABLY IN VIENNA, IN LATE JANUARY-EARLY FEBRUARY.

5. CONTRARY TO LOCAL PRESS SPECULATION, CZERNETZ NOTED ISRAEL'S INCLUSION IN ITINERARY OF FACT-FINDING MISSION AS RESULT OF P.M. MEIR'S APPROVAL THIS S.I. INITIATIVE AT NOVEMBER MEETING.

6. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION LAST EVENING, CHANCELLOR KREISKY TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT THIS TRIP IS AN UNOFFICIAL FACT-GATHERING EFFORT IN NO WAY INTENDED TO INTERFERE WITH THE SECRETARY'S DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES IN THE MIDDLE EAST OR WITH THE GENEVA TALKS. KREISKY ALSO MENTIONED THAT MITTERAND WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO ONE UNSPECIFIED ARAB COUNTRY. WE SPECULATE THAT IT MIGHT BE IRAQ OR MOROCCO SINCE CZERNETZ SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDED THESE TWO NATIONS FROM ITINERARY.

7. DEPARTMENT PLEASE MAKE FURTHER DISTRIBUTION AS DESIRED.
HUMES

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